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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/710,964

Applicant(s)

XU, YONGYONG

Examiner

JAY A. MORRISON

Art Unit

2168

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 and 60-101 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 and 60-101 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S5108)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/17/2009 has been entered.

Remarks

2. Claims 1-30 and 60-101 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section

351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-3,5-10,15-19,22,25-28,60-65,67-74 and 76-81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cohen et al. ('Cohen' hereinafter) (Patent Number 7,035,926).

As per claim 1, Cohen teaches

A virtual community system managing a plurality of users and a plurality of resources accessible by said plurality of users comprising: (see abstract and background)

a community server (web server, column 2, lines 14-16)

at least one component monitoring each user of said plurality of users accessing said plurality of resources; (tracking resources users are accessing, column 2, lines 34-36)

said community server associating each resource of said plurality of resources accessed by each user of said plurality of users to each user of said plurality of users; (user locations registered with map, column 2, lines 35-38)

said community server creating a persistent virtual community for each of said resources; (list of users on each web page, column 2, lines 50-52)

said virtual community including those users accessing said each of said resource (users accessing web page, column 2, lines 50-52) and user generated

content that is created by users who accessed or are accessing a resource to share with others; (participants on webpages can chat where chat reads on the user generated content, column 12, lines 45-52; figure 11, items 152, 154, 156)

at least one component displaying user generated content associated with said resource to each user when said user is accessing said resource; (chat information displayed to each user that is accessing the webpage, column 12, lines 49-58, figure 11, item 154)

said user generated content is created by said user during his visit to said resource to share with others. (user chats are shared with others while user is on webpage, column 12, lines 49-53; figure 11, item 152, 154)

As per claim 2, Cohen teaches
each of the plurality of resources is associated with a corresponding community.
(column 6, lines 53-56)

As per claim 3, Cohen teaches
each of the plurality of resources comprises a web resource. (column 2, lines 15-20)

As per claim 5, Cohen teaches
each of the plurality of resources has a unique name. (column 2, lines 21-25)

As per claim 6, Cohen teaches
users automatically become members of the virtual community associated with
said particular resource when they access the resource. (column 2, lines 35-39)

As per claim 7, Cohen teaches
the community server is further operating to provide community services to
community members. (column 2, lines 51-56)

As per claim 8, Cohen teaches
the community server is further operating to enable communication between
community members. (column 2, lines 62-66)

As per claim 9, Cohen teaches
the community server is further operating to enable community members to
perform community activities. (column 2, lines 62-66)

As per claim 10, Cohen teaches
the community server is further operating to provide collaboration between
community members. (column 6, lines 40-44)

As per claim 15, Cohen teaches

the community server is further operating to enable new community services provided by community members. (column 6, lines 50-55)

As per claim 16, Cohen teaches
the resources comprise private resources each having a unique name. (column 6, lines 58-62)

As per claim 17, Cohen teaches
the community servers is further operating to provide community member authentication services. (column 7, lines 60-62)

As per claim 18, Cohen teaches
further comprising a web resource server associated with said particular resource. (column 2, lines 15-20)

As per claim 19, Cohen teaches
each web resource server can contact at least one of said community servers to provide community services. (column 2, lines 14-18)

As per claim 22, Cohen teaches
the community server is further operating to uniquely identify each community member across multiple communities. (column 8, lines 4-8)

As per claim 25, Cohen teaches
the community server is further operating to keep statistical information regarding the community. (column 8, lines 55-60)

As per claim 26, Cohen teaches
the community server is further operating to connect users who have accessed the same resource. (column 2, lines 48-52)

As per claim 27, Cohen teaches
a proxy server coupled to the community server and a web resource server, the proxy server operating to serve a web resource content and connect to the community based on the resource being served. (column 2, lines 14-18)

As per claim 28, Cohen teaches
the community server is further operating to combine a plurality of communities into a larger community based upon similar resource use. (column 2, lines 25-30)

As per claim 60, Cohen teaches
A virtual community system associating a plurality of users and a plurality of resources accessible by each user of said plurality of users comprising: (see abstract and background)

a plurality of virtual communities each having a virtual community area (webpages with users that are visiting page, column 2, lines 53-57), where resources are mapped to virtual communities and each virtual community of said plurality of virtual communities contains community and user access information for said resources; (user locations registered with map, column 2, line35-38; list of users; column 2, lines 50-52)

a user access database containing resource access records from each user of said plurality of users for each resource of said plurality of resources; (nodes visited by visitor, column 6, lines 54-65)

a virtual community server operating to monitor accesses from each of said users to each of said resources (users on webpage, column 12, lines 45-50; figure 11, item 152), said persistent virtual community server also performing additional functions including: recording accesses into said user access database; mapping each accessed resource to a virtual community; creating said persistent virtual community; (list of users on each web page, column 2, lines 50-52)

updating said virtual community with access from said user to said resource; (column 6, lines 52-66)

displaying user generated content associated with said resource to each user when said user is accessing said resource; (chat information displayed to each user that is accessing the webpage, column 12, lines 49-58, figure 11, item 154)

said user generated content is created by said user during his visit to said resource to share with others. (user chats are shared with others while user is on webpage, column 12, lines 49-53; figure 11, item 152, 154)

As per claim 61, Cohen teaches
the virtual community areas are stored in directories, files, or databases. (column 6, lines 52-60)

As per claim 62, Cohen teaches
the global universal virtual community server comprises a group of servers.
(column 2, lines 14-18)

As per claim 63, Cohen teaches
the user access database comprises a distributed database. (column 6, lines 55-60)

As per claim 64, Cohen teaches
each virtual community area is created on demand when a first user accesses a resource. (column 8, lines 12-18)

As per claim 65, Cohen teaches
the user access database creates a new user record only when a new user entry is queried and is not in the database. (column 8, lines 18-24)

As per claim 67, Cohen teaches

each virtual community area comprises information regarding a particular community. (column 8, lines 49-55)

As per claim 68, Cohen teaches
each virtual community area comprises server side components that support user and community interactivity and activities. (column 2, lines 62-66)

As per claim 69, Cohen teaches
each virtual community area may utilize server side technologies including server side script, CGI, Servlet, web services and weblogs. (column 9, lines 45-52)

As per claim 70, Cohen teaches
the user access database comprises the current status of individual user's information. (column 8, lines 48-55)

As per claim 71, Cohen teaches
the user access database also stores user personal data including messages from other users, preferences or privacy/security settings. (column 7, lines 55-60)

As per claim 72, Cohen teaches
the community server further to group different community areas together to form a larger community for a bigger scope of resources. (column 2, lines 14-18)

As per claim 73, Cohen teaches

A method of forming resource-based virtual communities with a plurality of users and a plurality of resources, the method comprising the steps of: (see abstract and background)

allowing each of said users to access said plurality of resources; (users accessing webpages, column 2, lines 15-20)

causing a server to monitor each user accessing a resource; (tracking resources users are accessing, column 2, lines 34-36)

causing said server to associate each resource access with a particular user accessing it; (user locations registered with map, column 2, lines 35-38)

causing said server to form a persistent virtual community for each of said resources, said community comprising those users who have accessed a particular resource, creating said persistent virtual community (map listing users accessing webpage, column 50-52)

causing said server to display user generated content associated with said resource to each user when said user is accessing said resource; (chat information displayed to each user that is accessing the webpage, column 12, lines 49-58, figure 11, item 154)

said user generated content is created by said user during his visit to said resource to share with others. (user chats are shared with others while user is on webpage, column 12, lines 49-53; figure 11, item 152, 154)

As per claim 74, Cohen teaches

the resource being accessed by the user is a web resource, including a web site, a web page, a newsgroup, or a discussion forum. (column 2, lines 14-18)

As per claim 76, Cohen teaches

each of the plurality of accessed resources is associated with a corresponding resource based virtual community. (column 2, lines 62-66)

As per claim 77, Cohen teaches

the step of enabling new community services for community members. (column 7, lines 22-26)

As per claim 78, Cohen teaches

providing users community information and community services including hit count, total users, current users, feedback, comments, ratings, reviews, references or other useful information for the resource. (column 6, lines 52-60)

As per claim 79, Cohen teaches

enabling users collaboration with other community members including making comments, publishing reviews, rating resources, writing notes, sending messages, sharing whiteboards, chatting, helping each other, asking and answering questions,

exchanging ideas, interests matching scheduling meetings, online auctions, online dating, broadcasting, marketing or advertisements. (column 2, lines 62-66)

As per claim 80, Cohen teaches
allowing each of a plurality of users to access the resources; (column 2, lines 14-18)
causing an accessed resource to return the original resource; (column 2, lines 30-34)
and causing the accessed resource to connect users to a virtual community based on the accessed resource. (column 2, lines 35-38)

As per claim 81, Cohen teaches
allowing each of a plurality of users to access the resources through a proxy server; (column 2, lines 14-18)
causing the proxy server to return the original resource; (column 2, lines 30-34)
and causing the proxy server to connect the user to a virtual community based on the accessed resource. (column 2, lines 35-38)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
5. Claims 4,11-14,20-21,24,29-30,66 and 75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen et al. ('Cohen' hereinafter) (Patent Number 7,035,926) in view of Matthews et al. ('Matthews' hereinafter) (Publication Number 2003/0050986 A1).

As per claim 4, Cohen teaches

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "each of the plurality of resources comprises a non-web resource."

However, Matthews discloses "each of the plurality of resources comprises a non-web resource" (paragraph [0018], lines 1-6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of "each

of the plurality of resources comprises a non-web resource" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by enhancing interaction between community members. This gives the user the advantage of having a channel for communication between members available.

As per claim 11,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operating to provide notification to community members when a new user joins the community."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is further operating to provide notification to community members when a new user joins the community" (paragraph [0057]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of "the community server is further operating to provide notification to community members when a new user joins the community" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by enhancing interaction between community members. This gives the user the advantage of having a channel for communication between members available.

As per claim 12,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operating to enable community members to communicate with users outside the community."

However, Matthews discloses “the community server is further operating to enable community members to communicate with users outside the community” (email, paragraph [0057]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of “the community server is further operating to enable community members to communicate with users outside the community” would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by enhancing interaction between community members. This gives the user the advantage of having a channel for communication between members available.

As per claim 13,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate “the community server is further operating to provide community members with information regarding the community.”

However, Matthews discloses “the community server is further operating to provide community members with information regarding the community” (paragraph [0021]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of “the community server is further operating to provide community members with information regarding the community” would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by enhancing interaction between members of the community. This gives

the user the advantage of being able to communicate effectively with community members.

As per claim 14, Cohen teaches
the information comprises information presented to the community members
while they are accessing the particular resource. (column 2, lines 62-66)

As per claim 20,
Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the community server is disposed behind a
firewall to limit community members to users in an intranet."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is disposed behind a
firewall to limit community members to users in an intranet" (paragraph [0028]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the
invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of "the
community server is disposed behind a firewall to limit community members to users in
an intranet" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention
by providing security for members of the community. This gives the user the advantage
of having their data and community safe from security risks.

As per claim 21,
Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operating to
provide user privacy preferences to community members."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is further operating to provide user privacy preferences to community members" (block, paragraph [0064]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of "the community server is further operating to provide user privacy preferences to community members" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by providing security for members of the community. This gives the user the advantage of having their data and community safe from security risks.

As per claim 24,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operating to organize an information content for each virtual community into a plurality of hyperlinked pages."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is further operating to organize an information content for each virtual community into a plurality of hyperlinked pages" (paragraph [0021]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of "the community server is further operating to organize an information content for each virtual community into a plurality of hyperlinked pages" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by improving access to information within the

community. This gives the user the advantage of having a common browser interface whereby all users can access the pages.

As per claim 29

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operating to enable searches of each of the plurality of communities from a web site."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is further operating to enable searches of each of the plurality of communities from a web site" (paragraph [0025]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of "the community server is further operating to enable searches of each of the plurality of communities from a web site" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by improving access to information within the community. This gives the user the advantage of having a common browser interface whereby all users can access the pages.

As per claim 30,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operating to provide customized filtering preferences set by users, systems, and communities."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is further operating to provide customized filtering preferences set by users, systems, and communities" (paragraph [0025]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of "the community server is further operating to provide customized filtering preferences set by users, systems, and communities" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by improving access to information within the community. This gives the user the advantage of having a common browser interface whereby all users can access the pages.

As per claim 66,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "each virtual community area comprises a web server or web pages."

However, Matthews discloses "each virtual community area comprises a web server or web pages" (paragraph [0021]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of "each virtual community area comprises a web server or web pages" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by improving access to information within the community. This gives the user the advantage of having a common browser interface whereby all users can access the pages.

As per claim 75, Cohen teaches

This claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 4 and is similarly rejected.

6. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen et al. ('Cohen' hereinafter) (Patent Number 7,035,926) in view of Katzman et al. ('Katzman' hereinafter) (Publication Number 2002/0046051 A1).

As per claim 23,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operating to track community member's activities."

However, Katzman discloses "the community server is further operating to track community member's activities" (paragraph [0082]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Katzman because using the steps of "the community server is further operating to track community member's activities" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by trends to be tracked for future on-line business use. This gives the user the advantage of being able to have the choice of being tracked for future opportunities or other use.

7. Claims 82-101 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen et al. ('Cohen' hereinafter) (Patent Number 7,035,926) in view of Dinan et al. ('Dinan' hereinafter) (Publication Number 2002/0097267 A1).

As per claim 82, Cohen teaches

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "allowing a client side software installed on a user's computer to discover the resource accessed by the user; and the client side software connecting the user to the virtual community based on the accessed resource."

However, Dinan discloses "allowing a client side software installed on a user's computer to discover the resource accessed by the user; and the client side software connecting the user to the virtual community based on the accessed resource" (paragraph [0037]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "allowing a client side software installed on a user's computer to discover the resource accessed by the user; and the client side software connecting the user to the virtual community based on the accessed resource" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 83,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "allowing the user to access the virtual community and the accessed resource in a non-distributive way including using context menus, status bars, popup windows, balloon help messages, task bars to embedded frames inside a current web page."

However, Dinan discloses "allowing the user to access the virtual community along and accessed resource in a non-distributive way including using context menus, status bars, popup windows, balloon help messages, task bars to embedded frames inside a current web page" (paragraph [0042]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "allowing the user to access the virtual community and the accessed resource in a non-distributive way including using context menus, status bars, popup windows, balloon help messages, task bars to embedded frames inside a current web page" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 84,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "each of the plurality of resources comprises a non-Internet based product including a software, a device, an audio file, a video file, a service or a commodity."

However, Dinan discloses "each of the plurality of resources comprises a non-Internet based product including a software, a device, an audio file, a video file, a service or a commodity" (paragraph [0048]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "each of the plurality of resources comprises a non-Internet based product including a software, a device, an audio file, a video file, a service or a commodity" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 85,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the user connects to the virtual community through a mobile device such as a PDA or a cellular phone."

However, Dinan discloses "the user connects to the virtual community through a mobile device such as a PDA or a cellular phone" (paragraph [0039]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the user connects to the virtual community through a mobile device such as a PDA or a cellular phone" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in

the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 86,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "a client side software installable to a user's computer, the software operates to detect users activity of accessing a resource and connecting to a virtual community based on an accessed resource."

However, Dinan discloses "a client side software installable to a user's computer, the software operates to detect users activity of accessing a resource and connecting to a virtual community based on an accessed resource" (paragraph [0037]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "a client side software installable to a user's computer, the software operates to detect users activity of accessing a resource and connecting to a virtual community based on an accessed resource" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 87,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software also provides a toolbar button installable on a user's browser to connect to the virtual community when selected by the user."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software also provides a toolbar button installable on a user's browser to connect to the virtual community when selected by the user" (paragraph [0037]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software also provides a toolbar button installable on a user's browser to connect to the virtual community when selected by the user" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 88,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software also provides a context menu installable on the user's browser to connect to the virtual community when selected by the user."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software also provides a context menu installable on the user's browser to connect to the virtual community when selected by the user" (paragraph [0039]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of “the client side software also provides a context menu installable on the user’s browser to connect to the virtual community when selected by the user” would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 89,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate “the client side software is installed manually by the user or automatically when the user accesses the resource.”

However, Dinan discloses “the client side software is installed manually by the user or automatically when the user accesses the resource” (paragraph [0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of “the client side software is installed manually by the user or automatically when the user accesses the resource” would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 90,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is further operated to display a virtual community page displayed in a separate frame, popup window or balloon window along with the resource."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is further operated to display a virtual community page displayed in a separate frame, popup window or balloon window along with the resource" (paragraph [0046]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is further operated to display a virtual community page displayed in a separate frame, popup window or balloon window along with the resource" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 91,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is a standalone software agent."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is a standalone software agent" (paragraph [0062]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is a standalone software agent" would have given those skilled in the art

the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 92,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is further operated to discover current web resources accessed by the user by monitoring web requests from browsers."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is further operated to discover current web resources accessed by the user by monitoring web requests from browsers" (paragraph [0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is further operated to discover current web resources accessed by the user by monitoring web requests from browsers" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 93,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is further operated to detect a current resource being used by hooking into a protocol handling chain, or using

a protocol filter, a kernel driver, or a customized content handler; or by listening for system or windows events from browsers, or hooking into process, system or network APIs."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is further operated to detect a current resource being used by hooking into a protocol handling chain, or using a protocol filter, a kernel driver, or a customized content handler; or by listening for system or windows events from browsers, or hooking into process, system or network APIs" (paragraph [0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is further operated to detect a current resource being used by hooking into a protocol handling chain, or using a protocol filter, a kernel driver, or a customized content handler; or by listening for system or windows events from browsers, or hooking into process, system or network APIs" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 94,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is a browser."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is a browser" (paragraph [0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of “the client side software is a browser” would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 95,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate “the client side software is further operated to make multiple connections to multiple virtual communities based on multiple resources the user is accessing and thus enabling users to participate in multiple communities simultaneously.”

However, Dinan discloses “the client side software is further operated to make multiple connections to multiple virtual communities based on multiple resources the user is accessing and thus enabling users to participate in multiple communities simultaneously” (paragraph [0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of “the client side software is further operated to make multiple connections to multiple virtual communities based on multiple resources the user is accessing and thus enabling users to participate in multiple communities simultaneously” would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved

in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 96,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is a browser plugin integrated in a user's existing web browser."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is a browser plugin integrated in a user's existing web browser" (paragraph [0042]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is a browser plugin integrated in a user's existing web browser" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 97,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the browser plugin includes browser helper objects, plugins, applets, Javascript, flash, ActiveX object, content, dynamic html, connection protocol filters." (paragraph [0008])

However, Dinan discloses "the browser plugin includes browser helper objects, plugins, applets, Javascript, flash, ActiveX object, content, dynamic html, connection protocol filters" (paragraph [0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the browser plugin includes browser helper objects, plugins, applets, Javascript, flash, ActiveX object, content, dynamic html, connection protocol filters" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 98

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software can be a special component, shared object, dynamic library, driver or other extensions."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software can be a special component, shared object, dynamic library, driver or other extensions" (paragraph [0046]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software can be a special component, shared object, dynamic library, driver or other extensions" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to

improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 99,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is further operated to detect the current software used by the user and then connect to an associated virtual community based on that resource."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is further operated to detect the current software used by the user and then connect to an associated virtual community based on that resource" (paragraph [0046]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is further operated to detect the current software used by the user and then connect to an associated virtual community based on that resource" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 100,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is statically or dynamically linked to a software resource and further operated to run along with the software resource when the software resource is started by the user."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is statically or dynamically linked to a software resource and further operated to run along with the software resource when the software resource is started by the user" (paragraph [0050]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is statically or dynamically linked to a software resource and further operated to run along with the software resource when the software resource is started by the user" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 101,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software resides the software resource to provide new functions, features, services and applications."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software resides the software resource to provide new functions, features, services and applications" (paragraph [0046]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software resides the software resource to provide new functions, features, services and applications" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to

improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 1/17/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Cohen does not disclose a "community server". Respectfully, it is noted that Cohen discloses a server (column 2, lines 14-16), which meets the requirements of the limitation. As previously noted, it is respectfully submitted that the applicant reads a lengthy description into the claimed "community server", however given the required broadest reasonable interpretation the server in Cohen meets the claimed "community server" since no description of community is included in the claim. Therefore Cohen discloses the limitation. It is suggested that the applicant further describe what entails a community server in order to distinguish it from the server in Cohen.

Applicant argues that Cohen does not disclose mapping in the manner described in the claims, however it is not clear which specific claim and limitation to which the applicant is arguing. Respectfully, as previously submitted it is noted that Cohen discloses users which are mapped to a webpage where the map indicates who and how

many users are currently at the webpage (column 2, lines 40-52). It is submitted that this mapping within the webserver forms a persistent virtual community since the map is stored or persistent on the webserver and a community is formed based on the users currently on a given webpage. Therefore Cohen discloses the limitation.

Applicant argues that Cohen does not disclose "a list of users". Applicant further argues that a community is more than a list of users and is an independent entity. Respectfully, it is noted that Cohen discloses webpages which store the list of users mapped to this page (column 2, lines 45-52), which meets the requirement of an independent entity. Regardless, these limitations more specifically describing a community are not present in the limitation and it is suggested that the applicant consider adding more descriptive detail regarding what a community entails in order to overcome the rejections of record.

Applicant argues that Cohen does not disclose "a community with user generated contents, where the user generated content are created by a user to share with others". Respectfully, it is noted that Cohen discloses webpages with visitors on respective webpages can type in chat conversations (column 12, lines 45-50; figure 11, items 152,154,156). These chat conversations read on the claimed user generated contents, and since these chats are typed in by the user and displayed for others on the webpage, or in the community using the shared resource, these contents are shared with others. Therefore Cohen discloses the limitation.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, combine Cohen and Matthews is found in the Matthews reference as "a need for new systems and methods to enhance interaction between members of a community. A need exists for new methods of subscribing and unsubscribing to groups" (paragraph [0007], lines 3-7). As noted in the final action mailed 10/16/2008, at least this enhancement for interaction between community members would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the references because the suggestion is found in the Matthews references. Therefore it is respectfully submitted that the combination of the references is proper.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re*

Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, combine Cohen and Dinan is found in the Dinan reference as “users log onto communities inside minds.com to chat with others who share their interests. However, the only activities are chatting and messaging. While it is a community, minds.com does not qualify as a VR and is clearly not an immersive 3-D world.” (paragraph [0008], lines 18-24). As noted in the final action mailed 10/16/2008, these enhancement as described in Dinan would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the references because it would improve the user experience. Therefore it is respectfully submitted that the combination of the references is proper.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, combine Cohen and Katzman is found in the Katzman reference as “it may be desirous and advantageous to have an efficient technique and system for facilitating electronic browsing and purchasing. It may also be desirous to organize information in an arrangement that facilitates efficient retrieval and use” (paragraph [0006], lines 1-4) and “determining member profile information associated with said at least one member, said

member profile information including one of schedule information and member activity information" (paragraph [0008], lines 4-6). These enhancement as described in Katzman would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the references because it allow efficient electronic browsing and retrieval of information based on a users profile information which includes activity information. Therefore it is respectfully submitted that the combination of the references is proper.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record, listed on form PTO-892, and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jay A. Morrison whose telephone number is (571) 272-7112. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Vo can be reached on (571) 272-3642. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Jay Morrison/

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